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ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON



August 21, 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director for Intelligence
Coordination,
Central Intelligence Agency.

SUBJECT: Improvement of Intelligence Collection
Relating to Indo-China.

Reference is made to discussions following the completion of NIE 35/1, "Probable Developments in Indo-China Through Mid 1952," regarding measures to improve U. S. intelligence on Indo-China. In the following paragraphs are outlined certain measures which have been taken or initiated by the Department looking toward improving intelligence relating to Indo-China, and certain other measures which might be taken, or which, at least, seem worthy of consideration by the intelligence agencies.

A. Measures Taken or Initiated by the Department of State

1. A system of periodic guides for political and sociological reporting by the Legation at Saigon has been initiated. Procedures have been established which provide for OCI participation in the drawing-up of these guides.

2. A comprehensive economic reporting program has been established for Saigon, incorporating the needs of the intelligence agencies as well as of civilian agencies.

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3. New procedures have been initiated which are expected to be more effective in eliciting thoughtful comment from the field on completed NIE's.

4. By arrangement with the Ambassador, a member of the Embassy in Saigon has been assigned as a part-time Publications Procurement Officer. Assignment of this responsibility to a definite individual should result in improved and augmented flow of publications from Indo-China.

5. There

State Dept. declassification & release instructions on file

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Action:
2. Recommendations
1. Information

B. Other Measures Which Might be Considered by Intelligence Agencies

1. It might be possible to define more clearly the type and scope of information and analysis reported in Joint Weekas. The EIC Subcommittee on Requirements is already considering this problem with respect to the Economic Section of Weekas.

Action: OK

2. Additional emphasis might be placed on referring to the field for comment specific problems or gaps which arise during preparation of NIE's. (State does not favor submitting terms of reference of NIE's to field initially, before completion of NIE in Washington.)

Action: State

3. Measures might be taken to expedite and augment exchange of information between posts in Southeast Asia.

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7. Efforts

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8. The Library of Congress might be encouraged to increase its present efforts in acquisition of Chinese publications.

9. The Library of Congress is eager to issue an accessions list of Chinese acquisitions similar to the Russian accessions list [redacted] provided necessary financial support can be arranged. The usefulness, feasibility and cost of such a project should be investigated.

10. Several steps could be taken to make information currently received in Chinese publications more readily available to and useable by intelligence analysts. Consideration of the general problem of foreign language material, however, might well be deferred until the Working Group on Foreign Language Materials of the EIC Subcommittee on Requirements has completed its study of the problem.

Theodore M. Nordbeck

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Chief

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